

09/745,896

REMARKS**A. Period For Reply**

A shortened statutory period for reply was set to expire three months from the mailing date of the Office Action of March 28, 2005. March 28, 2005 plus three months is Tuesday, June 28, 2005. This Amendment and Remarks is being filed on or before Tuesday, June 28, 2005.

B. Status

The Office Action of March 28, 2005 was non-final.

C. Disposition Of Claims

Claims 1-4 and 13-18 are pending.

D. Application Papers

On page 2 of the Office Action, the formal drawings (submitted with the filing of this case on December 21, 2000) have been approved. This is appreciated.

E. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

Acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority would be appreciated.

Receipt of the certified copy was acknowledged on page 2, lines 1-2 of the Office Action of January 15, 2004.

As to domestic priority, this case does not claim domestic priority.

F. Attachments

Applicant filed two PTO-1449 forms in this case (one with the filing of this case on December 21, 2000 and one on February 17, 2003). These PTO-1449 forms were signed and all of the references listed on the forms were initialed by the Patent Office. This is very much appreciated.

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G. Basis for amendments

Basis for the amendment to independent claim 1 are dependent claims 5 and 9.

Basis for the amendment to independent claim 13 are dependent claims 19 and 20.

H. The Office Action

On page 2 of the Office Action, it is provided that the drawings filed on December 21, 2000 have been approved. This is appreciated.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-8, 13-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer, Jr. et al. (5,759,358) in view of Fauconet (6,352,619). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite the prosecution of the application, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended with claims that have been indicated to be allowable.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 9-12 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but it was provided that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This is very much appreciated.

Independent claim 1 has been amended with the subject matter of claim 9 and intervening claim 5. Independent claim 13 has been amended with the subject matter of claim 20 and intervening claim 19.

On page 2 of the Office Action, it was stated that claim 13 is allowable. However, pursuant to a voice mail message received from Examiner Manoharan on April 5, 2005, claim 13 is not allowable and Form PTOL-326 is correct.

In the remainder of the Office Action, applicant's

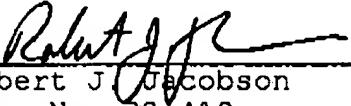
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discussion of January 1, 2005 was considered in detail.
This is appreciated.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully invited to make contact with the undersigned by telephone if such would advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 10, 2005



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